



County of Los Angeles CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE

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WILLIAM T FUJIOKA
Chief Executive Officer

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Fifth District

March 20, 2009

To: Supervisor Don Knabe, Chairman
Supervisor Gloria Molina
Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

From: William T Fujioka
Chief Executive Officer

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "W. T. Fujioka", written over a horizontal line.

MOTION TO SUPPORT SB 23 (PADILLA) WHICH WOULD REQUIRE THE OPERATOR OF EVERY MOBILEHOME PARK OR MANUFACTURED HOME COMMUNITY TO DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT AN EMERGENCY AND FIRE SAFETY PLAN; AND DIRECT THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER TO SEND A FIVE-SIGNATURE LETTER URGING PASSAGE OF SB 23 (ITEM NO. 12, AGENDA OF MARCH 24, 2009)

Item No. 12 on the March 24, 2009 Agenda is a motion by Supervisors Yaroslavsky and Antonovich recommending that the Board of Supervisors: 1) support **SB 23 (Padilla)**, which would require the operator of every mobilehome park or manufactured home community to develop and implement an emergency and fire safety plan, and direct the Sacramento advocates to actively promote its successful passage into law; and 2) instruct the Chief Executive Officer to send a five-signature letter to the Senate Transportation and Housing Committee urging passage of SB 23 for the protection of mobilehome residents throughout California.

Provisions of SB 23

SB 23, as introduced on December 1, 2008, would require the operator of a mobilehome park or manufactured housing community to develop and implement an emergency and fire safety plan, and provide appropriate emergency services training for park or community managers and on-site staff. This bill would require the plan to be posted in a manner accessible to all residents and to distribute copies to each resident upon approval of

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tenancy and annually thereafter. The plan must be in accordance with requirements determined by the State Fire Marshall and the California Emergency Management Agency (formerly Office of Emergency Services), and include procedures for identifying and assisting residents with disabilities and other health problems.

Existing Law

Under existing law, there is no requirement for a mobilehome park to have an emergency evacuation plan. Existing law does require that there shall be a person in every mobilehome park or manufactured home community who can be contacted and reasonably respond in a timely manner to emergencies concerning the operation and maintenance of the park. Mobilehome parks with 50 or more units must have a person who resides in the park and knows the emergency procedures for the utility systems and common facilities owned and controlled by the park.

In response to a November 18, 2008 Board motion directing the Fire Department and the Department of Public Works to prepare recommendations for changes in the applicable County codes for mobilehomes and mobilehome parks in high fire hazard areas that would reduce their vulnerability to fire, the Fire Department sent a report dated January 22, 2009 to each Board member with its review and recommendations. In the report, the Fire Department identified actions taken to amend its fire flow and hydrant requirements to increase the fire flow from 1250 gallons per minute to 4000 gallons per minute for new mobilehome parks in the Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone, and to increase the required brush clearance to 400 feet in mobilehome parks. In addition, the Fire Department indicated it would work with law enforcement agencies, within its jurisdiction, to develop comprehensive evacuation plans based on rapid egress from an approaching fire. This would be done in conjunction with the development of an outreach program to inform mobilehome park residents on emergency procedures.

The Fire Department indicates that the provisions of the bill are consistent with its actions and recommendations included in the January 22, 2009 report to develop an emergency evacuation plan for mobilehome parks and recommends support of SB 23. The Community and Senior Services Department indicates that this bill provides the first step in emergency preparedness for individuals living in these communities and also recommends support of SB 23. Therefore, we concur with the recommendations to support this bill and **the Sacramento advocates will support SB 23.**

SB 23 is sponsored by the author and was developed during his membership in the Senate Select Committee on Manufactured Homes and Communities. This bill is supported by the California Fire Chiefs Association, the California Congress of Seniors, the California Commission on Aging, and the American Federation of State, and County and Municipal

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Employees. There is no registered opposition. SB 23 is scheduled for hearing in the Senate Transportation and Housing Committee on March 31, 2009.

We will continue to keep you informed.

WTF:GK:MAL
MR:SK:sb

c: Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors
County Counsel